



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/715,040	11/17/2003	Ying Su		8858

7590

01/26/2006

Diany Yu
222 Black Birch Pass
Lilburn, GA 30047

EXAMINER

THANH, LOAN H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

6

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/715,040

Applicant(s)

SU ET AL.

Examiner

LoAn H. Thanh

Art Unit

3763

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

An electronic IDS appears to have been filed in the application on 11/17/03 and recorded in PALM. Applicant is to verify that this is indeed correct and submit a copy of this to the office along with the confirmed postcard receipt since it has not been scanned into the system for the Examiner to consider.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because it contains an embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See page 1, under the OTHER REFERENCES heading. Applicant is required to delete the embedded hyperlink and/or other form of browser-executable code. See MPEP § 608.01.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the externally barrel-shape spray nozzle and an internally threaded douche nozzle (claim 2), the annular groove with a floating O-ring (claim 3), the three versions of the coupling (claim 4) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered. It appears that the thread of the barrel shape is internal and not external. See figure 2. It appears that the terminology may have been reversed.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-5 are objected to because of the following informalities: “[T]he said” should be replaced with “the” or “said” since it appears redundant. Appropriate correction is required. Applicant should also change the preamble to “A shower head device comprising ...” in claim 1. Claims 2-5 should be consistent with claim 1 and recite “The shower head device of claim 1 further comprising ...”

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the annular recessed cylindrical wall " in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicant should replace " the" with "a".

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the spray nozzle " in 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Applicant should replace with "the" with "a".

Claims 1-5 are indefinite because it is unclear whether applicant is claiming a method or a device. If applicant is intending to claim a method claim , there are no steps recited. Thus, the Examiner is interpreting the claims to be directed to a device.

Claim 2 is vague and indefinite because it is unclear what "may alternatively comprise" is intending to claim. It is interpreted by the Examiner that those elements may or may not be present.

Claim 3 is vague and indefinite because it is unclear what "may alternatively consist" is intending to claim. The "consist" language is considered to be closed-ending phrase. However, "may alternatively" language seems to confuse this. It is interpreted by the Examiner that those elements may or may not be present.

Claim 5 is vague and indefinite because it is dependent on 3 other claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gauthier (USPN 3,921,635).

Gauthier discloses a device comprising a spiral configuration 117 in an annular recessed cylindrical wall around a spray nozzle. The Examiner has interpreted the claims as best understood by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

The subject matter of claim 4 appear to be allowable if all the elements were positively recited but the claim language needs to be amended to reflect and positively claim the device. Applicant is recommended to contact the Examiner for an interview to clarify the claim language.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LoAn H. Thanh whose telephone number is (571) 272-4966. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (First Friday off).

Art Unit: 3763

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick Lucchesi can be reached on (571) 272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LoAn H. Thanh', is positioned above the printed name and title.

LoAn H. Thanh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3763

LT
01/06/06